



OPEN CALL AUDITION

Zoot Suit: A Play by Luis Valdez

Monday, July 26, 2021 at 6:30PM

Tuesday, July 27, 2021 at 6:30PM

Callbacks – Wednesday, July 28, 2021 at 6:30PM

Auditions: Please submit an online Audition Form before signing up for an audition appointment. Performers are encouraged to make an appointment via Sign Up Genius (www.signupgenius.com/). All auditions and callbacks will be held in person at the Selma Arts Center. Those without an appointment will be seen on a walk-in basis, as time permits.

For your audition, please prepare the following:

- 1) a memorized monologue from a published play of your choice that does not exceed two minutes;
AND, depending on the role(s) you are considering,
- 2) 16-32 bars of a musical selection. You must have sheet music for the accompanist or a karaoke track prepared. (Roles that require a vocal audition are marked with an asterisk below.)

CDC Guidelines: Unvaccinated patrons must wear masks inside the theatre at all times. Masks do not have to be worn inside the theatre if you have been fully vaccinated. Participants are encouraged to wash hands before and after rehearsals.

Video Auditions: If you are unable to make the general auditions (we strongly recommend an in person audition), an accompanied video recording of the required materials specified above may be submitted **before July 27, 2021 at 8:00 PM** to selmaartscenter@gmail.com. Please send via unlisted YouTube link. However, you **MUST** attend the mandatory callback (*should you be called back*) on Wednesday, July 28, 2021 at 6:30 PM in order to be considered for a role. If this is not possible, please email selmaartscenter@gmail.com with any questions or concerns.

Callbacks: Callbacks will include a singing and reading round, as well as a choreography round, unless the role does not call for it. Please dress appropriately - a change of clothes is encouraged.

PRODUCTION INFORMATION

• Audition Form, Audition Packet and tentative schedule are available online and will be available at the audition.

- Due to the tight rehearsal schedule, all conflicts must be presented during your auditions.

Conflicts presented after the first rehearsal will not be honored. Please note that excessive conflicts will affect casting decisions.

- **PERFORMANCE CONFLICTS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED**

- Casting notification will occur no later than Saturday, August 7, 2021.

- Extra private music rehearsals may be called for principal roles. Should you be cast, you will be contacted by the vocal director for your availability and scheduling.

- Rehearsals for this production will be held Monday through Thursday from 6:30pm - 9:30 pm, unless otherwise specified:

There will be a cast and company meeting/orientation on **Monday, August 16, 2021** at 6:30pm.

There will be a vocal run thru for singing roles on **Friday, September 3 at 6:30 PM.**

- Communication will be done through phone, email and Facebook groups- please list a valid email address on the audition form.

- Performances are currently scheduled to take place indoors at the Selma Arts Center without any restrictions for vaccinated audience members.

- Performances: November 5, 6, 7, 12, 13, 14, 19, 20 for a total of 10 performances, including double-shows on each Saturday. The show runs for a total of three weekends. Matinee performances are scheduled for November 7, 14, and 20. All evening performances begin at 7:30pm and matinee performances begin at 2:00pm.

- ***PLEASE NOTE:*** There will be dance rehearsals required by those cast as *Pachuco, Pachuca Trio, and any member of the 38th Street Gang and Downey Gang, as shown in production schedule.*

If you have any additional questions about auditions or the production, please call Nicolette C. Andersen (559) 891-2238 or contact via email.

This production is sponsored by the Selma Arts Council

Directed by Juan Luis Guzman

Producer - Nicolette C. Andersen

Stage Manager - Kaitlin Kirby

Dramaturge: Lia Dewey

Vocal Director - Mindy Ramos

Music Director - Frank Velasco

Choreographer - TBA

Costume Designer - Damen Pardo
Wig Designer - Garrett Ruiz

THE SELMA ARTS CENTER
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Selma, CA 93662
(559) 891-2238
Selmaartscenter.com
nicolettea@cityofselma.com

TENTATIVE PRODUCTION SCHEDULE

AUDITIONS	July 26-27, 6:30-9PM
CALLBACKS	July 28, 6:30 PM
Company Meeting	Monday, August 16 at 6:30 PM
Start of OFFICIAL Rehearsals	
MON-THURS 6:30-9:30PM	Monday, August 30
VOCAL WEEK (1 Week Independent Study)	
	August 30 - September 2
VOCAL RUN THRU (In Person)	
	Friday, September 3 at 6:30 PM
CHOREOGRAPHY WEEK (2 Weeks)	
	September 6 - September 16 at 6:30 PM
BLOCKING (2 Weeks)	
	September 20 - September 30 at 6:30 PM
RUN THROUGHS (4 Weeks)	
AND CLEAN UP	October 4 - October 28 at 6:30 PM
TECH WEEK	
	Week of November 1
PERFORMANCES	
	November 5-20
STRIKE	
	November 21

Synopsis: Los Angeles, 1942. The United States has entered World War II, and the patriotic spirit is running high. At the same time, racial tension in L.A. are boiling over, aggravated by the biased racism of the news media that has branded young Mexican-American men, dressed in zoot suits and the pachuco style, as criminals, thugs, and an infestation. Within this turmoil, Henry Reyna, the leader of the 38th Street Gang, is accused of murder. He and his co-defendants are set up to lose the trial, and while volunteers ardently work to overturn his conviction, Henry begins to lose hope. At the same time, the historic Zoot Suit Riots explode, where U.S. servicemen stripped young Mexican-Americans and burned their clothes in the street. If Henry is ever released, what kind of world will this young pachuco live in?

Inspired by both the Sleepy Lagoon Murder Trial of Henry Leyvas in 1942 and the Zoot Suit Riots of 1943, Luis Valdez weaves a heartbreaking dramatization of history and social commentary. The message of 1942 was still relevant when *Zoot Suit* premiered in 1978, and its anti-racist message is still as vital as ever today.

ROLES: *requires a vocal audition

El Pachuco*: Latinx, *casting is open to people of all gender expressions in this role.* Late 20s to late 30s/Timeless. They wear a fantastic zoot suit, which transforms them into the very image of the Pachuco myth – an allegorical character of the 1930s-1940s Chicano sub-culture. Tenor/Baritone.

Henry Reyna*: Latino, 21-25. He has a classic Mexican look and is older than his years. Leader of the 38th Street gang, a well-known group of zoot suiters in Boyle Heights. Falsely accused of murder along with his friends. Considered the ring leader.

HIS FAMILY:

Enrique Reyna: Latino, 40s-50s. Henry's father; works as a street sweeper; he is strong, blue-collar, “puro Mexicano” a true “macho man.”

Dolores Reyna: Latina, 40s-50s. Henry's mother, a soft, caring, blue-collar, religious woman.

Lupe Reyna*: Latina, Female, 16. Henry's pretty little sister who desperately wants to be older and be part of the 38th Street Cholas.

Rudy Reyna*: Male, Latino, 19. Henry's younger brother. Rudy looks up to his brother and when things get tough he tries to be part of the gang. In the end, he joins the Marines.

HIS FRIENDS:

George Shearer Arab-American or Caucasian, 40s. Public defender assigned the defense of all the 38th Street boys. A middle aged, athletic, strong man that shows the frazzled wear and tear of being a public defender.

Alice Bloomfield: Caucasian, 20s-30s. A young cub reporter and community activist that joins the fight for the 38th Street Boys. She is drawn to Henry and has a brief romantic encounter with him.

HIS GANG:

Della Barrios*: Latina, 17-20. Henry's girlfriend is sent to prison when she defends the actions of Henry and the 38th street boys on the witness stand.

Ismael "Smiley" Torres*: Latino, 22-27. The only married member of the 38th St. Gang; he is closest to Henry.

Joey Castro*: Latino, 18-25. The jokester of the 38th Street Gang.

Tommy Roberts*: Caucasian, 21-25. The only Caucasian member of the 38th St. Gang and a hard core Zoot Suiter.

Elena Torres*: Latina, early 20s. Smiley's wife (no dialogue). Attractive, young, and dances well.

Bertha Villareal*: Latina, early 20s. Henry's ex-girlfriend; a bit hard core "chuca" and jealous of Della.

Pachuca Trio*: Little Blue (Latina) / Manchuka (Asian American) / Hoba (African American)

Pachuca Trio: 20s. 1940's Glamour. They sing tough, provocative backup to the Pachuco. Little Blue: Hangs out with the Zoster and is possibly his girlfriend. No dialogue. Manchuka: Swabbie's girlfriend, Japanese-American dancer who gets caught in the round-up. Her relationship with her boyfriend, Swabbie is symbolic of the war in the Pacific. Hoba: She's a tough member of the Downey gang. No dialogue. Strong sing/dance roles.

THE DOWNEY GANG:

Rafas*: Latino, 21-25. He is the head of the Downey gang, which are the arch rivals of the 38th Street Gang. Rafas eggs Henry on at a local party.

Guera*: Latina, 21-25. She is Rafa's girlfriend. No dialogue. Dance/Sing.

THE LAW

Co-Lieutenant Edwards/Judge F.W. Charles/San Quentin Prison Guard: Caucasian, 40s to 50s. Lieutenant Edwards: Friendly, tired, detective that heads the unit that ultimately arrests the 38th Street Gang. He's arrested Henry before and is familiar with Henry and his family. Judge F. W. Charles: He presides at the trial of the 38th Street boys. Prison Guard: He's a tough, career prison guard at San Quentin. One actor for the three roles.

Sergeant Smith/Bosun's Mate/Bailiff: Caucasian, 30s–40s. Sergeant Smith: Gruff, edgy, one of the detectives who with Lt. Edwards arrests the 38th Street Gang. Bosun's Mate: No dialogue. Bailiff: Present in the courtroom at the trial of the 38th Street boys. One actor for the three roles.

Swabbie*: Caucasian, 20s. A typical American Sailor caught in the round up of the 38th St Gang. His relationship with his girlfriend, Manchuka is symbolic of the war in the Pacific. Dance/Sing.

THE PRESS

Press: Caucasian, 20-60s; tells the story in “headlines” for the audience throughout the entire play.

Cub Reporter/Sailor/Ragman*: Latino or Caucasian, 21-25. Cub Reporter: A young, inexperienced reporter who covers the Downey gang. Some dialogue. Ragman: This character has no dialogue – but is featured prominently in party scenes. Sailor: A 1940s U.S. Navy Sailor. No dialogue. Dance/Sing. One actor for the three roles.

Zooter/Sailor/Marine/Shore Patrolman/Pimp/Cholo*: Latino or African American or Caucasian, 21-25. This character has no dialogue – but is featured prominently in party and ensemble scenes. Sailors/Marines/Shore Patrolman/Dancing Pachuco Couples/Pimp/Cholo: Dance/Sing role.

Young Pachuco/Newskid: Latino. Sells newspapers on the streets, reads headlines; shares stage and lines with Pachuco. Open to young or teen performers, parental permission required for participation in audition and casting if under 18. Must be able to read and memorize lines.

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